



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AGENDA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HOLMDEL HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 22, 2025 6:00 P.M.
PUBLIC MEETING APPROXIMATELY 7:00 P.M.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Holmdel Township School District is to provide a well-rounded and inclusive education that empowers all students to reach their full potential and thrive. We believe that excellence comes from building strong relationships, embracing a positive attitude toward growth, overcoming challenges with determination, and celebrating our unique differences. Through teamwork and cooperation, we aim to create an environment where students can succeed academically as life-long learners and responsible global citizens.

A. Call to Order

The Board of Education, Township of Holmdel, met in a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at Holmdel High School, 36 Crawford's Corner Road, Holmdel, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. DiMare, Board President.

B. Open Public Meetings Act

Statement is hereby made that adequate notice of this meeting was given by:

- Posting written notice prominently on the bulletin board in the Office of the Board of Education, 65 McCampbell Road, Holmdel, New Jersey, the District's website and sent to the four district schools.
- The mailing and/or hand delivery of said notice to the designated newspapers, Asbury Park Press, Star Ledger, the PLG, PSG, PSA, PTSO, SAB presidents and student representatives to the Board.
- Filing with the Clerk of Holmdel Township, Police Headquarters and Public Library.

C. Roll Call

The following Board members were present: Mesdames: LoPresti, Collur and Tuccillo. Messrs: DiMare, Buckley, Kim, Libecchi, and Reddy. Absent: Mr. Mann. Also present, Dr. J. Scott Cascone, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Deborah Donnelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Mr. Kyle Trent, Board Attorney. Student Representatives to the Board, Mr. Jack Powers and Ms. Isabella Spicer were absent.

D. Resolution for Executive Session

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b, permits a public body to go into an Executive (Closed) Session during a public meeting to discuss certain matters specified in the statute; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has determined that it is necessary to go into an Executive Closed Session to discuss matters relating to certain items as permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Township of Holmdel that it shall adjourn into Closed Session at this time to discuss the following subject matter(s) without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b and 10:4-13:

1. Student matters
2. Personnel matters
3. Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is not yet possible to determine when the matters discussed in Closed Session will be made public; the matter(s) discussed will be made known to the public at such time as appropriate action is taken on said matter(s), and when disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best interests of the Board of Education, provided such disclosures will not violate Federal, State, or local statutes or regulations and do not fall within the attorney-client privilege.

MOTION: Mr. Kim SECOND: Mrs. LoPresti VOTE: 8-0
Absent: Mr. Mann

At 6:05 p.m., the meeting moved to Executive Session.

E. Motion to Return to Public Session

MOTION: Mr. Libecchi SECOND: Mr. Buckley VOTE: 8-0
Absent: Mr. Mann

At 7:00 p.m., the meeting returned to public session.

F. Call to Order

G. Opening Statement

Meetings of the Board are open to the public and all members of the community should feel free to participate:

- There is one opportunity for the public to speak.
- Any individual desiring to speak shall give his or her name, address, and the group, if any, that is represented.
- The presentation shall be as brief as possible but no more than three (3) minutes per individual.
- There are certain matters that may be brought before the board that cannot be immediately addressed in public. Such matters may be referred by the president to a board committee and/or to the Superintendent for consideration and/or resolution.
- The board vests in its president, or other presiding officer, authority to terminate the remarks of any individual if he/she deems it in the best interest of those present to do so.

H. Flag Salute

I. Presentation(s)/Public Hearing(s)

1. 2025/2026 Holmdel High School Program of Studies / Course Placement Presentation – Dr. Michael-John Herits & Mrs. Kaci Rizzitello

J. Action Items – None

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K. BOE Liaison Reports

S.E.P.A.C. – Mrs. Tuccillo shared that S.E.P.A.C. met on January 14, 2025. There was a presentation by Compass, which is an outside agency that provides counseling services to parents who request services. The next S.E.P.A.C. meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2025 and will focus on Summer Rec.

Holmdel Township Committee – Mrs. LoPresti reported that tomorrow, she, Mr. DiMare, and Dr. Cascone will be meeting with Mayor Foster, Deputy Mayor LaMountain and Township Administrator Jay Delaney to have a kick-off meeting to discuss how the Board of Education and the Township can continue to collaborate.

Mrs. Tuccillo thanked the Township for the reminder about their sidewalk shoveling responsibilities and mentioned that there are some sidewalks that are Township property that also need to be cleared (South Holland, for example).

Mr. Reddy referenced the PILOT funds and suggested that the Board of Education continue to push for some of those funds.

L. Board Sub Committee Reports

1. 2025 Committee Goals

Budget & Finance: Mrs. LoPresti shared the Budget & Finance Committee initiatives for this year.

- Negotiating a new HTEA contract
- Historical Data Presentation
- Budget Development
- Collaboration with Township Committee

Buildings, Grounds & Safety: Mr. Kim shared the goals for the Buildings, Grounds & Safety Committee:

- Installation of Aquaponics Lab at Holmdel High School in conjunction with HFEE
- Application of Playground Grant for Removal and Replacement of Play Pavilion at Village School
- Lighting Improvements at Roggy Field (behind concession stand and area around trailer restrooms)
- Roof Leak analyzation utilizing infrared thermography to identify root causes

Curriculum & Instruction: Mrs. Tuccillo shared that the Curriculum & Instruction Committee is focusing to help guide, develop, evaluate and implement educational programs here at the school. This includes ensuring that curricula aligns with state standards, supporting professional development for our staff and ensuring equitable access to a high quality education for all of our Holmdel students. The goal is to foster continuous improvement in instructional practices and outcomes and helping to create a dynamic, responsive learning environment. It is out of C&I that things such as the waiver work, getting dual enrollment, and increasing AP's and dual enrollment offerings happen. Mrs. Tuccillo shared that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee is currently reviewing past agendas to identify items that may need to be addressed.

Dr. Collur asked for clarification on the subcommittee meeting process. Mr. DiMare shared his vision for the subcommittees and meeting expectations going forward. There was a brief discussion among the Board Members regarding the committee responsibilities and expectations.

Community Relations: Mr. Libecchi shared the key insights of the Community Relations Committee and stated the goal is to enhance how we communicate with our stakeholders, parents, students, staff, and community

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members as he has noticed there appears to be a little bit of a disconnect between what they perceive and what is actually happening in our schools. This isn't due to a lack of effort but rather the overwhelming amount of information that people receive daily. Our goal should be to communicate effectively in a way that cuts through the noise while keeping everyone informed and engaged. To address this, Mr. Libecchi has been working closely with Dr. Cascone, Carlos Machado, Steve Lelivelt, several teachers and administration to explore innovative solutions and have identified Parent Square, a platform that can streamline our communications and bring an optimized approach to how we connect with everyone in our district. Parent Square offers an all-in-one hub for central updates such as summaries of Board of Education news and meeting highlights, announcements about changes in curriculum, teaching methods and district initiatives, notifications about workshops, community events and volunteer opportunities, updates on policy changes, budget and strategic goals, and resources for parents and students, including tips for academic and extracurricular success. Ultimately, this is now encompassing all the different technologies that all of us have and get inundated by and confused by a lot of times, and puts it in one clear, concise app at our fingertips. While Parent Square is the platform, it would be called the Holmdel Board of Education or Holmdel Township app and people will look at it as a go-to when they are looking for information regarding the district. This consolidation will result in significant budgetary savings and will improve the efficiency for everyone involved. We are also exploring interim solutions until the Parent Square app is fully launched. To ensure the success of this initiative, he would like the Board to periodically provide information on items they would like to share with the community.

There was a brief discussion among the Board regarding the Parent Square app's capabilities and how it compares to the platforms that we are currently utilizing.

Policy: In the absence of Committee Chair, Mr. Mann, Mr. DiMare reported on the conversion to NJSBA for Policies.

Labor Negotiations/Personnel: Mr. Buckley reported that the Committee plans to meet fairly frequently, beginning in the next few weeks, to evaluate some of the critical items that the Board has identified as it relates to personnel. Among those items, the Committee expects to work with the Budget & Finance Committee and Administration, to help develop a budget that is both mindful of the district's financial constraints as well as being able to still offer an exceptional education curriculum in the classroom and extracurricular activities. The Committee plans to prioritize the recruitment and retention of qualified educators, staff and administrators who will support the district missions; delivering a high caliber educational experience. Mr. Buckley shared that Mr. Reddy has offered his assistance in taking a thorough review of the NJSBA policy manual to identify and ensure compliance and adoption of best practices. The Committee is planning to tackle the contract renewal with HTEA which is set to expire June 30, 2025. The Board has already provided the HTEA with information they requested as part of the negotiation process. The Committee is looking forward to working collaboratively with the HTEA and creating a new, mutually beneficial agreement for both the teachers and Holmdel's taxpayers.

Mr. Reddy suggested that Mr. Buckley request the HTEA's 'wish list' and also to make sure the Committee has updated scattergrams prior to the first meeting. Mr. Buckley shared that he will discuss with Mr. Trent further details on the process. There was a brief discussion among the Board Members with regard to expectations relating to the Negotiations process.

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M. Old Business

Dr. Collur referenced the recent cell phone ban brought forth by the Governor and asked if we should revisit this policy. Dr. Cascone provided an update and shared that K-8 there is essentially a ban. At the high school level, students have more flexibility and are allowed to use them during lunch but they are prohibited in the classroom. Dr. Cascone shared that in-school incidents are down. The district is utilizing Linewize to monitor searches, concerning language and usage on district equipment. There was a discussion on use of cell phones on data vs. Wi-Fi, which is not monitored and there was a discussion on the revision of the Code of Conduct for cell phone use and enforcement of stricter penalties.

N. New Business

1. Review of Agenda Action Items for January 29, 2025 Public Meeting

Dr. Cascone provided an overview of the draft agenda.

2. Central Office Department Updates

Administration provided the updates.

O. Questions or Comments from the Public - None

P. Executive Session (if required) – N/A

Q. Adjournment

Board President DiMare made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Buckley seconded and by a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Deborah Donnelly
Business Administrator/Board Secretary